

Trail Descriptions

History Trail (white trail blazes)

This four mile trail connects the North Carolina Monument parking area to the Lee's Headquarters parking area. Weaving through hardwood forests, pines stands and open fields, this trail has several points of interest that are described below. Most of the trail is wide with gentle changes in elevation, but some sections are steep, rocky and uneven. After periods of heavy rains, some sections of the trail along the Appomattox River and Plain Run may be muddy and temporarily flooded. Good birding opportunities can be found along this trail.

1. Lee's Headquarters Site Marker - General Lee held his last council of war in this woodlot on the evening of April 8, 1865.

2. Sweeney Prizery - This building was a tobacco-packing house in 1865. Local farmers brought their crop here to be packed in hogsheads, or large barrels, to be sent to market. Many Confederate soldiers camped in this vicinity during the night of April 8 and during the days following the surrender.

3. Sweeney Dam and Mill Site - A water-powered mill operated in this area in the late 1800s after the Civil War.

4. Prince Edward Court House Road - Before the surrender, on the morning of April 9, 1865, Union General George Custer's cavalry division fought with Confederate forces under Colonel Talcott and General Gary around the road intersection near the top of this ridge.

5. Flag of Truce Marker - About mid-morning on April 9, 1865, the first Confederate flag of truce was carried south to the Union lines past this location. The bearer, Confederate Captain Robert Sims of General Longstreet's staff, was seeking a cessation of the fighting until Generals Lee and Grant could meet to discuss surrender terms. Captain Sims was first received near the top of the hill by General George Custer.

6. North Carolina Monument - This monument was placed by the General Assembly of North Carolina to commemorate actions by the North Carolina troops during the final battle fought by Lee's army on April 9, 1865.

7. Lee's Last Attack Wayside Exhibit - This exhibit panel tells of the last assault of the Army of Northern Virginia and the advance of the Union infantry which led to the surrender.

Sears Lane Trail (blue trail blazes)

This 6/10 mile trail starts at the North Carolina Monument parking area and follows the historic Sears Lane just east of the Raine Cemetery. General Grant traveled on this lane to bypass Confederate troops as he rode to Appomattox Court House to discuss surrender terms with General Lee. Now covered with hardwood forest, this lane once passed through open fields of tobacco, grains and other crops. During periods of heavy rain, sections of trail may be temporarily flooded. It is possible to make a 1.4 mile circuit hike from the North Carolina Monument parking area by starting on the History Trail then taking the Sears Lane Trail back uphill.

Forestry Trail (orange trail blazes)

Starting near Lee's Headquarters parking area, The American Society of Foresters maintains trail markers that identify trees and provide information on how the forest changes. These markers continue along the Forestry Trail, a 4/10 mile spur trail that connects back to the History Trail. Some sections of this trail are uneven and rocky.